

REGULAR MEETING

April 2, 2024

7:00 o'clock, P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of the Municipal Authority of the City of Sunbury, County of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, was held Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 7:00 o'clock, P.M. at the Municipal Authority Administrative Building, 462 South Fourth Street, Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

The following were in attendance:

Norman Koch, Chairman

Thomas Krieger

Cory Fasold

Larry Welfer

David Persing

Thomas McBryan

Tre Bittner, constituting Board Members in attendance

Jason Neidig, Manager

Matthew Billman, WasteWater Department Manager

Pat Bennett, Solid Waste/ Recycling Dept Manager

Michael Balducci, Solicitor

Jennifer Kremer, Acting Recording Secretary

Mr. Koch called the meeting to order and Mr. Welfer led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Koch introduced Brian Betz for Public Discussion. Mr. Betz explained the situation at his property at 270 N Eleventh Street involving backed up sewage in his basement. The sewer line was found to be damaged and needed replacement. A letter Mr. Betz wrote to Jason and the Authority was presented for the Board to look over. Attorney Balducci explained some ground rules and legal responsibilities of the Authority, as well as the concept of "Sovereign Immunity". Tom McBryan then explained how sewer main lines are designed and how they get blocked. Mr. Betz is asking for \$1,520.00 for costs incurred in solving this problem. He provided an itemized bill for review with his letter. Discussion followed about what was found when the main line was flushed. Matt and the sewer department to check on the tree roots in the area before a decision will be made. It was stated that Mr. Betz should have called the Municipal Authority first before contacting a plumber for his issue. It was suggested that Mr. Betz submit his bills to his homeowner's insurance, but he said his deductible is too high. The Board will discuss the issue and come to a resolution.

Mr. Koch presented the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 29, 2024 and the Regular Meeting of March 5, 2024 and called for any additions or corrections. There being no additions or corrections, on motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Tom McBryan, the Minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Matt reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting.

He passed out a map of Susquehanna Avenue properties showing the lines and where the work would take place. There is one property at 608 Susquehanna Avenue where they will need to move the sewer line. An easement will be needed. Matt is to get a drawing/sketch and visit the property owner, then go to the surveyor.

Matt reported that the Aeration Basin project is wrapping up. They still need to build steps and program the SCADA system.

The Sewer Department has replaced 5 catch basins since the beginning of March.

Bob Hare's sidewalks at 240 S Tenth Street have been replaced.

During the week of March 18th, Matt and two other wastewater employees attended the PA Rural Water Conference in State College and obtained continuing education credits for their licenses.

Matt then talked about the MIPP limit changes of what industries are allowed to send to us, and asked the board to approve the revised resolution from April 2008. The limit list was reviewed and on motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to approve the resolution. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Pat reviewed his report and stated the Transfer Station took in 25.31 more tons in March 2024 than in 2023.

The spring cleanup event was successful. The Transfer Station saw 211 total customers and took in 68.17 tons total, with the biggest day being the first day of the event.

Pat reported that they sold 17.93 tons of plastics to NH Kelman and 24.83 tons of clear glass to Recycall.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason stated he attended PMAA Board Member training with Cory and Tre in Camp Hill on Thursday March 21st.

Jason is working to develop an RFP for the security of the Authority's departments. He requested help in determining how to break down the proposal, either by department or by phase. Consensus of the group was to set the priorities dependent on vulnerabilities, and go in that order, but do not piecemeal things together. Jason requested that someone else create the RFP. Board directed Jason to confer with Pat from Buchart Horn to see if this is something they could assist with, as well as check with PMAA for guidance.

Jason reported that T-Ross is working on a quote for the Diverter project for the Transfer Station.

He then stated that the Susquehanna Avenue project is set to begin in April. The cost savings on using plastic instead of ductile iron is about \$33,000. In the end, the Authority would owe about \$110,000 more.

Jason stated that the Little Shamokin Creek cleanup is scheduled for April 13th. The Authority will provide two dump trucks to haul and dump debris, and also contribute food for 50 people helping with the cleanup. The law permits a donation of up to \$1000 for this effort. Discussion then occurred regarding the use of Authority equipment by outside parties. Flushtruck rental was discussed. On a motion made by Tom Krieger, seconded by Tom McBryan it was moved to allow use of Authority trucks for the Little Shamokin Creek project. Motion carried.

Tom McBryan questioned where things stand with our electric rates, and stated it seems electric demand across the country is predicted to spike, so it would be beneficial to lock in rates now for 3-5 years. Jason has a quote set for the next meeting.

Jason brought up the listing of Municipal Liens the Authority currently has against customers who do not pay their water/sewer bills. Discussion was had regarding these properties. The list will be distributed at the next meeting for review and decisions on what should be done with them.

Next Jason brought up the Shamokin Creek Log Jam issue. Upper Augusta Township and the Authority filed jointly for two grants for this project. However, this is a conflict for the Authority due to the Flood Department applying for the same grants for the Toe Drain project. Lynda Culver is looking for other grants and options.

Jason stated the City of Sunbury is to be featured in an article in Business View Magazine.

Jason and Matt will attend PMAA management workshop at the Hershey Hotel on April 17th. He invited the Board to attend.

Discussion was then held regarding using our flushtruck for interested parties that are not other municipalities. Cory felt this could potentially bring in some income, while others worried about the liability. The Authority would need to have a release form created specifying the rules, rates, liability, etc.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to accept the managers' reports. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Ward was not present at the meeting, so Jason reviewed Pat's report. He stated there was no board action required on the Zimmerman Project, the Aeration Basin project, or the Susquehanna Avenue project regarding engineering.

On motion made by Larry Welfer and seconded by Dave Persing, the Engineer's report was approved. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Balducci reviewed his report, starting with a meeting he had with Jason, Jenn, Pat B. regarding the Wayne Township Solid Waste Renewal Contract. The only increase was \$1.00 per ton for the solid waste tipping fee. He will finish the final draft and bring it to the board for approval.

Next, he explained he also met with Jason and Jenn on Employee Handbook changes, including a few policy updates. Once ready, he will bring the changes to the personnel committee, as well as the board, for final approval.

Attorney Balducci then asked Tom McBryan if he heard any feedback on the new Agreements with the City? He said no, and he would ask Jim.

On motion made by Tre Bittner, seconded by Tom Krieger, it was agreed to accept the Solicitor's Report. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Jason asked for an official vote on a donation for the upcoming employee picnic. It was decided that \$500 would be given for a grand prize, and an additional \$1000 be given towards a nice gift for each employee. On motion made by Tom Krieger seconded by Tom McBryan, it was voted to approve. Motion carried.

Discussion then revolved around investments and our PLGIT rates. Board feels that long-term investments are key. A motion to work towards investing \$500,000 in maturing bonds and CDs, allocated by department, starting with \$200,000 was made by Tom McBryan and seconded by Tre Bittner. Motion carried.

Next, discussion ensued regarding finding a replacement solicitor. Decision was made for Jason to place an ad in the Daily Item.

Jason then talked about interviewee Jacob Peteraf for the Water Department laborer position. He suggested the Authority vote to approve Jacob for hire. On motion made by Tom McBryan and seconded by Tre Bittner, it was moved to hire Jacob Peteraf at a starting rate of \$19.00/hr. for the Water Department. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Cory stated he had a good talk with the Authority accountant, Tony, and met with him, Jason, Jenn, Carin and Tom McBryan to discuss questions on Authority financial reporting.

Jason asked for a short executive session.

Next, Mr. Koch asked for approval for payment of the list of expenditures from March 20-April 3, 2024. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Tom Krieger, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

Mr. Koch announced the next meeting date was April 16, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

The meeting went into executive session at 9:36 p.m. and reconvened in general session at 9:58 pm.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman

Solicitor